

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;

a detector which detects a width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit; and

an image data distributor which distributes image data input to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads.

2. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;

a detector which detects a set angle of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit; and

a driving timing correction unit which, when driving the recording elements of each of said plurality of recording heads, corrects a driving timing

of each recording element in accordance with the detected set angle.

3. An image forming apparatus comprising:

5 a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;

10 a detector which detects a set angle and a width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit;

15 an image data distributor which distributes image data input to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads; and

20 a driving timing correction unit which, when driving the recording elements of each of said plurality of recording heads in accordance with the distributed image data, corrects a driving timing of each recording element in accordance with the detected set angle.

25 4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notification unit which, if the detected width of the overlapped region of one of said plurality of recording heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies a message

demanding replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

5        5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a notification unit which, if the set angle of one of said plurality of recording heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies a message demanding replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

10       6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a notification unit which, if at least one of the detected set angle and the detected width of the overlapped region of one of said plurality of recording heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies a message demanding  
15 replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

      7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if at least one of said plurality of recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predetermined test chart is printed, and the width of the  
20 overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads is detected again from the printed test chart.

      8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if at least one of said plurality of  
25 recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predetermined test chart is printed, and the set angle of each of said plurality of recording heads is detected again

from the printed test chart.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein if at least one of said plurality of recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predetermined test chart is printed, and at least one of the set angle and the width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads is detected again from the printed test chart.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein whether image data which corresponds to the overlapped region between the heads is a line image is determined, and, if the image data is found to be a line image, the image data is so distributed that no complementary printing is performed in the overlapped region.

11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein whether image data which corresponds to the overlapped region between the heads is a line image is determined, and, if the image data is found to be a line image, the image data is so distributed that no complementary printing is performed in the overlapped region.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.

13. An image forming apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.

14. An image forming apparatus according to  
5 claim 3, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.